

Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Kent

1500 Scribner Ave., N.W.

Grand Rapids, MI 49504-3299

(616) 242-6900

Fax # (616) 242-6980

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Representative Wayne Schmidt, Chairman

Testimony on HB 5167

May 1, 2014

Kent County Road Commission
Steve Warren, Managing Director

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Deputy Managing
Director - Operations

Wayne A. Harrall
Deputy Managing
Director - Engineering

John L. Strauss
Director of Finance

The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) supports the efforts of the Michigan Legislature to seek a long-term increase in transportation funding to enhance the quality of our roads and bridges for the citizens we serve. KCRC also supports efforts to increase performance and cost efficiency in providing those services.

KCRC's goal has been and will continue to be to provide the quality transportation facilities and services to Kent County in the safest and most cost effective manner possible.

In our opinion however, the proposed requirements of HB 5167 mandating that we privatize the full maintenance of twenty-percent our system is inconsistent with that goal and limits our Board's ability to make sound business decisions in the best interests of our constituents. Therefore, KCRC opposes HB 5167.

KCRC's record of good governance and efficiency includes:

- Outsourced 54% (\$31M) of expenditures in FY2013 (see attached).
- Privatized many activities previously performed in-house including:
 - Snowplowing 1000 cul-de-sacs \$ 200,000
 - Catch Basin Cleaning \$ 232,000
 - Street Sweeping \$ 389,000
 - Pavement Marking \$ 780,000
 - Aggregate Production \$ 73,000
 - Dust Control Services \$ 185,000
- Eliminated pension plan in 1987 and established a Defined Contribution Plan.
- Employee contributions to health care according to PA 152.
- No long-term debt.
- One of the lowest overhead rates in the state.

HB 5167 could:

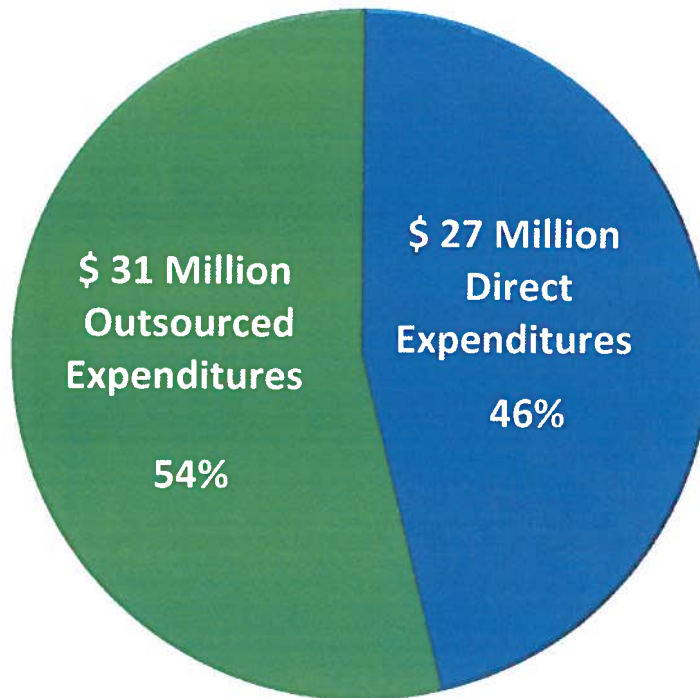
- Complicate coordination of emergency response services and threaten public safety.
- Increase overhead costs for additional contract administration efforts.
- Increase the cost of maintenance and/or reduce the level of service due to the lack of documented study and evidence to the contrary.

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Kent County Road Commission

FY2013 Expenditures \$58 Million



Outsourced Activities

Aggregate Production
Auction Services
Box culvert placement
Building Demolition
Catch Basin Cleaning Services
Concrete Cutting Services
Construction Engineering Services
Dust Control Services
Furnish & Haul Aggregates
Janitorial Services
Micro-surfacing Services
Pipe (underground) Relining Service
Road Reconstruction
Rotomilling Services
Sealcoat Stone for Chipseal Program
Street Lighting
Traffic Controls Rental & Services
Trucking Services

Asphalt Paving Projects
Barrier Wall Construction
Bridge Deck Rehab. & Replacement
Building Maintenance
Concrete Curb & Gutter Construction
Concrete Joint Repair Services
Culvert Repairs
Fuel tank replacement Service
Hydro-seeding & Mulching
Landscape Services
Pavement Marking Services
Refuse Disposal Services
Roadside Seeding Services
Sand for Winter Maintenance
Snow Plowing Service – 15 are
Street Sweeping Services
Traffic Signs

PARTIAL LIST OF MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Surface Maintenance

Pothole repair, crack sealing, chipsealing, micro-surfacing, full-depth concrete joint replacement, spray injection patching, gravel road grading, dustlayer, washout repair, sand, mud, low area repair.

Trees and Brush

Dead tree removal, hi-ranger trimming, stump removal, stump grinding, brush cutting, hand trimming around guardrail, culverts, and bridges.

Drainage

Culvert repair, culvert replacement, ditching cleaning, catch basin cleaning, underground pipe cleaning, pipe inspection (video), catchbasin and manhole repair, soil erosion and sedimentation controls.

Roadside Clean-up

Trash, dead animals (3000+ deer annually), unlawful right-of-way encroachments, tires, Adopt-a-Road pickup.

Grass and Weed

Roadside mowing (wheel and tracked equipment), clear vision areas.

Guardrail

Replacing, repair, upgrading beam guardrails.

Sweeping

Provide pickup and kick-off sweeping, curbed, valley gutters, and intersections.

Shoulder Maintenance

Grade, add aggregate material, compact, and apply dustlayer.

Winter Maintenance

Apply chemicals and abrasive materials, blading, plowing, winging ice and snow from the travel lanes and shoulders. Apply anti-icing chemicals in advance of storm to bridges. Use of motorgraders, snow blowers, loaders along with various other pieces of equipment as needed.

Structure Maintenance

Repair of fixed structures including footings, abutments, wingwalls, piers, superstructure and railing; resurfacing of bridge decks, channel clearance; repair of riprapping, washouts, protective piling, and retaining walls. This activity includes culverts or multiple culverts that total greater than twenty feet in span.

Traffic Signs

Cleaning, repairing, and refinishing official highway signs and sign posts; furnishing and installing replacement signs, and maintenance of railroad crossing signs.

Traffic Signals

Repair and replacement of traffic signals including "Walk" lights and railroad crossing warning devices and signal; payment to railroad companies for signal maintenance and expense for electrical energy for traffic signals, illuminated highway signs, and special cases of highway lighting.

Roadway Inspection - Twenty-four hour, seven days a week

Provides visual road inspections, responds to calls for signal from law enforcement, fire services, EMS, weather, accidents, and citizen complaint driven.